

To: Dr. Eileen Cashman and Dr. Kerri Hickenbottom

From: Natalie Rynne

Subject: SERC and CCAT site Visit

Date: 10/02/2015

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to report on the off grid lighting project at the Schatz Energy Research Center.

Summary

The purpose of the trip was to learn about the opportunities available on campus to get involved with projects related to our career path.

On the tour of the Schatz Energy Research Center we learned about their efforts to bring good quality off grid lighting to families in developing countries. For many families the only source of light can be a health risk especially to children, and can also be expensive. SERC is working to regulate product quality and provide affordable off-grid lighting for families all over the world.

Students have worked in the lab developing test methods for evaluating the off-grid LED-based lighting systems, testing these systems, and using field research to improve those systems and implement them.

Discussion

The tour was led by an Environmental Resources Engineering alumni who worked at SERC as an undergrad student and is now one of their full times employees. She told us about many different projects at SERC and showed us the labs where they test and develop alternative energy systems and technology. They have many opportunities to volunteer including docent programs giving presentations to younger students and people in our community, projects in other countries, or researching hydrogen fuel cells.

My favorite part of the trip was hearing about volunteer opportunities and seeing the lab.

Recommendation

I recommend that SERC continue their research and effort towards providing clean, renewable lighting to families in developing nations.